

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 11936 031007Z  
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-12  
COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 SSC-01 IO-13 AGRE-00  
DRC-01 /093 W

-----006154 031011Z /17/72

O 021643Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8595  
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 11936

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (EO, TAGS, SUBJECT, & TEXT--PARA FOUR)

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, EG  
SUBJECT: COMMENT ON SADAT MAYDAY SPEECH

SUMMARY: SADAT'S TWO HOUR LABOR DAY SPEECH ON MAY 2  
WAS A LACKLUSTER PERFORMANCE. ONLY SURPRISE WAS  
ANNOUNCEMENT OF "IMMEDIATE" CABINET RESHUFFLE. HE  
WAS HOPEFUL ON PEACE PROCESS AND FULL OF PRAISE FOR  
U.S. AND PRESIDENT CARTER. THERE WAS LITTLE TO MEET  
WORKERS GRIEVANCES AND DOMESTIC PORTIONS WERE HIGHLY  
DEFENSIVE. MOST POSITIVE ASPECT WAS PRESIDENT'S  
OBVIOUS AWARENESS OF WHAT ISSUES ARE BOTHERING HIS  
PEOPLE. END SUMMARY.

1. PEACE PROCESS. SADAT HAD NOTHING NEW TO SAY,  
BUT PROFESSED OPTIMISM ON BASIS OF POSITIVE U.S.  
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 11936 031007Z

ROLE, ISRAELI ISOLATION AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY'S  
AGREEMENT WITH PRINCIPAL LINES OF EGYPT'S POLICY.  
PRESIDENT SINGLED OUT AS PARTICULARLY REASSURING  
AMBASSADOR EILT'S ASSURANCE TO FORMIN THAT PRESIDENT  
CARTER'S COMMITMENT TO HIM ON WITHDRAWAL UNDER 242  
AND ILLEGALITY OF SETTLEMENTS REMAINS VALID.  
PRESIDENT ALSO JUSTIFIED HIS OPTIMISM ON GROUNDS

HE COULD NOT REVEAL EVERYTHING THAT IS TAKING PLACE  
AS RESULT ATHERTON MISSION AND CARTER'S "PRINCIPLED  
STAND."

2. EGYPT AND THE REJECTIONISTS. SADAT REITERATED,  
WITH HEAT, EGYPT'S COMMITMENT TO ARAB SOLIDARITY AND  
TOOK NEW TACK AGAINST REJECTIONISTS BY ACCUSING  
THEM OF REFUSAL TO APPLY OIL EMBARGO IN 1973 IN  
ORDER TO PUT MORE GOLD IN THE BANK. "EGYPT FIRST"  
SENTIMENT ALSO PLAYED TO WITH SUCH STATEMENTS AS  
"OTHERS HAVE MADE ENORMOUS AMOUNTS OF MONEY OUT OF  
THE SACRIFICES OF EGYPTIAN PEOPLE."

3. INTERNAL SITUATION. SADAT DEPARTED FROM PREPARED  
TEXT AND BECAME MOST DEFENSIVE IN PASSAGES ON INTERNAL  
SITUATION. HE CLAIMED HE IS CLOSE TO THE PEOPLE AND  
NOT ISOLATED, THEREBY REVEALING HIS AWARENESS OF THIS  
FAMILIAR ALLEGATION. CRITICS WERE DEALT WITH  
PRIMARILY AS CULPRITS WHO ARE EXPLOITING NEW FREEDOMS.  
OPPOSITION MEMBERS OF PEOPLES ASSEMBLY WEERE PARTI-  
CULARLY CRITICISED FOR THEIR "SLANDEROUS" BEHAVIOR  
IN PLACE OF SERIOUS WORK. ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT  
INTEND TO ASK FOR PLEBISCITE TO DISBAND ASSEMBLY  
(AS REQUIRED BY ARTICLE 136 OF CONSTITUTION), PRESI-  
DENT WARNED HE MIGHT HAVE TO CONFRONT ASSEMBLY ONE  
DAY, AND WOULD DO IT WITH WORKERS AND PEASANTS, NOT  
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PAGE 03 CAIRO 11936 031007Z

MILITARY.

4. ECONOMIC PROGRESS. SADAT CLAIMS OF ECONOMIC  
GROWTH WERE MADE IN MACRO TERMS UNLIKELY TO IMPRESS  
WORKERS. ALTHOUGH HE ADMITTED FOR FIRST TIME OPEN  
DOOR HAD CREATED SOME DISEQUILIBRIUM IN INCOME  
DISTRIBUTION (WHICH TAX LAW DESIGNED TO RECTIFY),  
MUCH OF THIS PORTION DEVOTED TO PYRAMID PLATEAU  
PROJECT, AGAIN REVEALING SADAT'S AWARENESS OF WHAT  
PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT. PULLING BACK FROM EARLIER  
DEFENSE, PRIME MINISTER CHARGED WITH FORMING  
COMMITTEE TO STUDY PROJECT.

5. CABINET CHANGE. MAIN REMEDY SADAT SUGGESTED  
WAS CALL ON PRIME MINISTER SALEM TO CARRY OUT  
"IMMEDIATE" CABINET RESHUFFLE WHICH, SOMEWHAT  
EMBARRASSING FOR MINISTERS IN ATTENDANCE, WAS  
GREETED WITH APPLAUSE. (GAMASY WAS NOT THERE.)  
TO PROVIDE SOMETHING FOR WORKERS AND FARMERS ON  
ESTABLISHMENT OF MORE WORKERS' COOPERATIVES, FIXED  
PRICES ON CONSUMER GOODS, AND HIGHER WAGES. HE  
ALSO SPOKE IN GLOWING TERMS OF PROSPECTS FOR

"GREEN REVOLUTION." TEN DAY WAGE BONUS ANNOUNCED  
AS POSTSCRIPT TO SPEECH.

6. COMMENT: THERE WAS LITTLE HERE THAT WILL  
SILENCE SADAT'S GROWING NUMBER OF CRITICS. MOST  
POSITIVE ASPECT OF SPEECH WAS PRESIDENT'S OBVIOUS  
AWARENESS OF HIS PEOPLE'S GRIEVANCES. EILTS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, CABINET, SPEECHES, LABOR DAY, PEACE TALKS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
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**SAS ID:** 2524277  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** COMMENT ON SADAT MAYDAY SPEECH SUMMARY: SADAT'S TWO HOUR LABOR DAY SPEECH ON MAY 2 WAS A LACKLUSTER PERFORMANCE. ONLY SURPRISE WAS  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PINT, EG, (SADAT, ANWAR)  
**To:** STATE ALEXANDRIA  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/db4ad593-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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20 Mar 2014  
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